

Date

Ms. Cheryl Wooley
Chief of Police
Town of Many - Police Department
P.O. Box 1330
Many, Louisiana 71449

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2021-534

Dear Chief Wooley:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its September 3, 2021 meeting, considered your request to approve a disqualification plan regarding matters that may arise out of the employment of Stanley Cook as a Deputy with the Many Police Department while his son, Kyle Cook, serves as the Assistant Chief of Police.

FACTS PROVIDED

The issue as to the employment of Stanley Cook as a Deputy with the Many Police Department while his son, Kyle Cook, serves as the Assistant Chief of Police was addressed in Docket No. 2020-202. The facts provided in that matter included that Stanley Cook had been employed with the Many Police Department since 2003 as the Patrol Supervisor; Stanley Cook answered directly to the Chief of Police; and, his job duties included handling training and patrol concerns. The Chief of Police at the time hired Stanley Cook's son, Kyle Cook, as the Assistant Chief of Police, which is an administrative position. The Board advised that this employment situation was not prohibited by La. R.S. 42:1119.

You stated that you became the Chief of Police after Chief Freeman passed on December 16, 2021. You are now submitting a Disqualification Plan that will designate you as the person to handle all employment matters involving Stanley Cook.

LAWS

La. R.S. 42:1112B(1) states that no public servant shall participate in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to his actual knowledge, any member of his immediate family has a substantial economic interest.

La. R.S. 42:1112C allows a disqualification plan to be developed in accordance with rules adopted by the Board to remove a public servant from participating in transactions that would otherwise present violations of Section 1112 of the Code.

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CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the disqualification plan submitted by you complies with La. R.S. 42:1112C and the Rules for the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. Please note that the Board issues no opinion as to past conduct, and that the Board's expressed opinion is limited to an examination of the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Acts, and the conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Tracy M. Barker
For the Board

DISCLAIMER
This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for informational purposes only. No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for informational purposes only and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this draft is considered.